BRITISH COLUMBIA

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Prices

- **In February, the Consumer Price Index for BC rose 2.9%, compared to the same month of 2001.** This was the highest rate of inflation in the country. Some of this apparent surge is due to BC Hydro credits of a year ago that then drove the electricity index to zero. Excluding energy, BC's inflation rate was 2.1%. Alcohol and tobacco (+6.4%) and food (+4.2%) also experienced significant price increases.

  Across the country, the next highest growth was experienced in Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta (+1.6%). The national inflation rate, year-over-year, was 1.5%. Significant increases in the indices for food (+4.3%) and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+13.6%) were instrumental in pushing up the overall price index. Declines in prices for energy (-5.8%), transportation (-3.0%) and clothing and footwear (-1.0%) helped offset some of the increase in other areas.

  Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **The number of business bankruptcies in the province jumped 4.8% in January, compared to the same month of 2001.** Consumer bankruptcies were up 4.1% to 805, up from 773 a year earlier. Business bankruptcies increased 10.8% to 103, up from 93 in January 2001. Other service industries (21) and manufacturing firms (15) had the largest number of business bankruptcies in BC. Retail trade industries, with only 10 bankrupt companies, showed the best improvement, with 13 fewer bankruptcies compared to a year earlier.

  Nationally, business bankruptcies totalled 914, up 2.7% from January 2001 levels, but it was consumer bankruptcies that experienced the larger increase, rising 7.2% to 6,447. Ontario experienced the largest increase in consumer bankruptcies with a 26.6% jump.

  Source: Industry Canada

- **In January, shipments of goods manufactured in BC rose for the first time since May 2001, albeit by only 0.3% (seasonally adjusted).** A 4.3% increase in manufacturing of durable goods offset a 5.0% drop in non-durable commodities. Shipments were up across the country, with the exception of PEI and New Brunswick (-0.1% each). Overall, Canadian shipments increased 3.1% in January. At the same time, inventories fell 0.5%, resulting in an inventory-to-shipment ratio of 1.49, the lowest since May.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of exports of BC products was up 5.4% (seasonally adjusted) in January ending a slide through much of last year.** Shipments of machinery, equipment and automobiles (+23.4%) led the way, but energy exports also experienced strong growth, increasing 12.5% from December to January. Forest exports were fairly flat, rising only 0.9% in January. Exports of industrial and consumer goods fell 1.2%.

  The value of exports destined for US markets (+8.5%) experienced the strongest growth since December 2000, the height of the energy boom. Exports to the US of all major categories of goods increased in January at rates ranging from +2.8% for forest products to +22.8% for machinery, equipment and automobiles.

  Exports of forest products (-3.3%) and industrial and consumer goods (-25.1%) to the rest of the

Report **BC Employment by Occupation, 2001**

Did you know...
Over one in four Canadians aged 15 and older report being workaholics and for people with children, that proportion is even higher, rising to 36% for lone parents with teenaged children.

world fell, contributing to a 2.1% overall decline in the value of exports to these destinations. Exports of machinery, equipment and automobiles to non-US destinations rebounded from a 29.7% drop in December, increasing 27.2% in January. *Source: BC STATS*

- **Wholesale sales in the province jumped 3.4% in January (seasonally adjusted).** Sales in BC outpaced those of Canada as a whole, which grew only 2.0% from December to January. Only Ontario (+4.1%) and PEI (+3.8%) had wholesale sales growth larger than BC. Saskatchewan (-6.1%) experienced the largest drop in sales, retreating from a nation leading 8.9% growth in December. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) in British Columbia in January were unchanged from December.** The only province with lower growth was Quebec (-1.2%), a reversal from December when BC and Quebec ranked first and second in retail sales growth. Total Canadian sales were up 1.1% in January. Since the 1.7% decline in September following the events of September 11th, Canadian retail sales have increased each month. From September to January they have climbed 6.3%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The composite index of leading indicators of the condition of the Canadian economy grew 1.1% in February.** The gain came on the heels of a similar 1.0% improvement in January and is the largest since early in 2000. Most of the components of the composite index showed growth, with the exception of two indicators in the manufacturing sector: new orders for durable goods (-1.5%) and the ratio of shipments to inventories (-0.01 points). The housing index had the strongest growth (+4.5%) as low interest rates continue to fuel demand for housing. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Travel

- **After two months of growth, visitor entries into the province dropped 5.4% (seasonally adjusted) in January.** Entries from the US fell 5.7% while those from overseas slipped 4.0%. Entries from both Asian (-2.3%) and Oceanic (-6.9%) countries declined, but European entries saw a small increase (+0.3%). Canadian re-entries were down 1.6% as same day car trips to the US decreased by 4.5%. *Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS*

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns

- **In January, restaurant caterer and tavern receipts dropped 2.7% (seasonally adjusted).** This was a result of declines in both drinking places (-2.7%) and food service places (-2.7%). Across the country, receipts were down 1.9%. Food service establishments slipped 1.7% and drinking places decreased 5.2%. *Source: BC Stats, Statistics Canada*

Government Debt

- **On December 31, 1999 the net debt of local governments stood at $12.5 billion, down $3.5 billion from 1998.** BC's local governments posted the largest net surplus of $1.85 billion. Ontario ($65 million), Saskatchewan ($707 million), Yukon ($27 million) and Nunavut ($7 million) were also in a surplus position. The largest net debt from local governments was in Quebec (-$12.7 billion). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Youth Court

- **The number of youth (aged 12 to 17) court cases heard continued to decline in 2000/2001.** In total, 99,590 youth cases were heard across the country, down from 102,061 in 1999/2000 and from 110,065 in 1996/1997. Cases involving violent crime (-5%) and property crime (-3%) dropped in 2000/2001 compared to the previous year. However, cases involving drug-related offences climbed 29%. On average, there were 403 cases heard for every 10,000 youths. Saskatchewan posted the highest case rate with 946 cases for every 10,000 youths. BC had the third lowest rate in the country, with 304 cases per 10,000 youths. Prince Edward Island (170) had the lowest rate. *Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database (www.statcan.ca); otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

Mar 22, 2002 *Infoline Report:* **B.C. Employment by Occupation, 2001**

Contact: Accountability Branch, Ministry of Advanced Education (250) 952-6776
Originally published in Labour Force Statistics, February 2001. Annual subscription $60 plus GST

B.C. Employment by Occupation, 2001

Introduction . . . The Labour Force Survey provides estimates of employment and earnings data on the basis of occupation. The term occupation refers to a collection of jobs or types of work sharing similar skills and responsibilities. Occupations generally describe the kind of work an individual performs. This contrasts to industry classification, which is concerned with the primary product or services in which a business or organization is engaged. For example, employment in the Health *industry* would include workers in many health *occupations* like nurses, but would also include accountants working in the finance departments of hospitals. Health occupations by contrast only include workers engaged in work which are health-care specific. A number of occupations span across nearly all industries, such as office clerks, accountants or computer programmers. Some occupations are fairly limited in the industries in which they are found. For example, all oil and gas drillers are found in the oil and gas extraction industry sector. Finally, it is important to note that sometimes the concept *of occupation* is more intuitive than *industry* in reviewing labour market data. For example, pharmacists are found within the Health Occupations category, but most who are employed are found in the Retail Trade industry which encompasses all Drug Store establishments. This article focuses upon reviewing B.C. employment by occupation for a number of characteristics.

Broad occupational categories (or skill type) are based on the type of work performed, but also reflect the training or experience that is normally required for entry into the occupation. Occupational skill types do not distinguish on the basis of skill level. A given occupational category such as Health Occupations, includes a range of workers of various skill levels from specialist physicians to pharmacy assistants. The ten major occupational categories (or skill types) defined using the Standard Occupational Classification system are as follows.

Management Occupations
This skill type category contains senior management occupations, and middle and other management occupations. It is unique amongst the ten occupational categories in that these occupations span all skill type categories.

Business, Finance and Administration
This category contains occupations that are concerned with providing financial and business services, administrative and regulatory services and clerical supervision and support services. Some occupations in this category are unique to the financial and business service sectors; however, most are found in all industries.

Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations
This category contains professional and technical occupations in the sciences, including physical and life sciences, engineering, architecture and information technology.

Health Occupations
This category includes occupations concerned with providing health care services directly to patients and occupations that provide direct support to professional and technical health care staff.

Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Service and Religion
This skill type category includes occupations that are concerned with law, teaching, counselling, conducting social science research, developing government policy, and administering government and other programs.

Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport
This skill type category includes professional and technical occupations related to art and culture, including the performing arts, film and video, broadcasting, journalism, writing, creative design, libraries and museums. It also includes occupations in recreation and sport.

Sales and Service
This very large skill type category contains sales occupations, personal and protective service occupations and occupations related to the hospitality and tourism industries. Specific examples of occupations in sales include: real estate sales, insurance agents and cashiers. Examples in personal services include: funeral directors, barbers, babysitters, daycare attendants, homemakers and cleaners; in protective services: firefighters, police and security guards and in food & beverage services: butchers, bakers and cooks.

Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations
This skill type category includes construction and mechanical trades, trades supervisors and contractors and operators of transportation and heavy equipment. These occupations are found in a wide range of industrial sectors, with many occurring in the construction and transportation industries. This category includes most of the apprenticeable trades, including all of those related to the construction industry.

Occupations Unique to Primary Industry
This category contains supervisory and equipment operation occupations in the natural resource-based sectors of mining, oil and gas production, logging, agriculture, horticulture and fishing. Most occupations in this category are industry specific and do not occur outside of the primary industries. Example unit group occupations here include farmers, underground miners, and loggers.

Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities
This category contains supervisory and production occupations in manufacturing, processing and utilities. Examples of specific occupations in this category include printing press operators, sawmill machine operators, and fish plant workers.

Figure 1: B.C. Employment by Occupation, 2001

	Employment				Proportion of Group in 2001 who were:			Earnings
	(000)	Net Incr. from 1991 (000)	% Incr. from 1991	Women % Incr. From 1991	Women % Share	Part-Time % Share	Metro % Share	Median Weekly Wage Rate
Total, all occupations	**1942**	**370**	**24%**	**29%**	**47%**	**21%**	**62%**	**$600**
Management occupations	174	27	18%	25%	36%	8%	65%	$961
Business, finance & administrative occupations	340	33	11%	11%	73%	22%	68%	$597
Natural & applied sciences & rel. occupations	119	39	50%	146%	19%	8%	71%	$923
Health occupations	104	23	29%	30%	79%	25%	58%	$736
Occupations in social science, education, government service & religion	130	39	42%	64%	63%	23%	62%	$800
Occupations in art, culture, recreation & sport	60	28	87%	94%	49%	38%	72%	$513
Sales & service occupations	566	145	35%	32%	58%	35%	63%	$348
Trades, transport & equipment operators & related occupations	280	10	4%	3%	6%	8%	55%	$800
Occupations unique to primary industry	64	-5	-7%	-6%	24%	16%	32%	$588
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing & utilities	106	31	41%	69%	21%	7%	52%	$694

Figure 2: B.C. Employment by Selected Detailed Occupation, 2001

	(000's)	Net Incr from 1991 (000)	% Incr from 1991	Net Incr from 1991 (000)	% Incr from 1991	% Share of group in 2001	Median Weekly Wage Rate
Total, all occupations	**1942**	**370**	**24%**	**204**	**29%**	**47%**	**$600**
Business, finance & administrative occupations	**340**	**33**	**11%**	**24**	**11%**	**73%**	**$597**
Professional occupations in business & finance	57	18	46%	10	56%	48%	$827
Financial, secretarial, administrative	94	-8	-7%	-5	-5%	83%	$602
Clerical Occupations and Supervisors	189	23	14%	19	15%	75%	$560
Occupations in social science, education, government service & religion	**130**	**39**	**42%**	**32**	**64%**	**63%**	**$800**
Occupations in social science, government service & religion	57	15	35%	12	52%	60%	$724
Pre-school, K-12, Post-secondary Instructors	73	24	48%	20	73%	64%	$846
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing & utilities	**106**	**31**	**41%**	**9**	**69%**	**21%**	**$694**
Machine operators & assemblers, manufacturing, & supervisors	88	31	54%	8	86%	20%	$720
Labourer in processing, manufacturing & utilities	18	0	0%	1	33%	28%	$600

Figure 3: B.C. Employment in Sales and Service, Trade and Transport Occupations, 2001

							Median
Total, all occupations	**1942**	**369.8**	**24%**	**203.6**	**29%**	**47%**	**$600**
Sales & service occupations	**566**	**145.3**	**35%**	**79.8**	**32%**	**58%**	**$348**
Wholesale, technical, insurance, real estate sales specialists, & buyers	75.1	26.0	53%	10.0	60%	35%	$692
Retail salespersons, sales clerks, cashiers, & supervisors	134.5	36.4	37%	25.2	37%	69%	$288
Chefs & cooks, & occupations in food & beverage service & supervisors	87.9	25.3	40%	9.9	25%	57%	$312
Occupations in protective services	28.5	6.8	31%	3.6	157%	21%	$788
Childcare & home support workers	49.4	5.5	13%	4.2	10%	92%	$400
Sales & service occupations n.e.c., including travel & accommodation, attendants in recreation & sport & supervisors	190.5	45.2	31%	26.9	32%	58%	$330
Trades, transport & equipment operators & related occupations	**280.1**	**9.8**	**4%**	**0.5**	**3%**	**6%**	**$800**
Contractors & supervisors in trades & transportation	31.8	-3.4	-10%	0.0	0%	6%	$962
Construction trades	43.9	1.1	3%	0.2	13%	4%	$725
Other trades occupations	98.3	11.2	13%	-0.4	-8%	5%	$876
Transport & equipment operators	70.2	2.7	4%	0.8	18%	7%	$770
Trades helpers, construction, & transportation labourers & related occupations	36.0	-1.6	-4%	0.0	0%	8%	$540

Characteristics for Employment by Occupational Category . . . Figure 1 provides an overview of B.C. occupational employment with changes over the last ten years and some additional characteristics in 2001. Growth in employment since 1991 has varied greatly between the 10 occupational categories. Almost 40 per cent of the net growth took place in the large sales and services group, which contained 29 per cent of total employment in 2001, up from 27 per cent in 1991. By contrast, occupations unique to primary industry have lost employment (down 5,000 or 7 per cent). The most dramatic employment growth between 1991 and 2001 occurred in art, culture, recreation and sport occupations. While this category is relatively small in size, it grew by 87 per cent over the time period.

Employment for women grew faster than for men between 1991 and 2001 in seven of the ten occupational categories. Of note is employment in the natural and applied sciences category where although women hold only 19 per cent of the jobs, their employment growth was dramatic over the last 10 years increasing by 146 per cent.

Figure 1 also shows occupational employment in terms of percentage share of employment for women, part-time employment, and the share of employment in the metro areas of Vancouver and Victoria combined. Overall, employment by women represented 47 per cent of all employment in B.C. in 2001, up from 45 per cent in 1991. Women were highly represented in occupations within the health, business, finance and administration, and sales and service categories. Combined, 72 per cent of all employment by women was in these three occupational groups. By contrast, women were under-represented in the occupational categories of natural and applied sciences; trades, transport & equip. operators; occupations unique to primary industry; and processing, manufacturing and utilities occupations. Almost half of all total employment by men was in these four categories, compared to only 8 per cent for women.

Some occupational categories were more likely than others to have part-time hours in 2001. The occupational categories of art, culture, recreation and sport and sales and service had the highest incidence of part-time employment at 38 and 35 per cent respectively. Occupations in manufacturing; trades and transport; natural and applied sciences; and management had the least incidences of part-time work.

Some occupational categories were more likely to be found in the large metropolitan areas of B.C. than in smaller urban or rural areas. Over 70 per cent of provincial employment in natural and applied sciences and art, culture, recreation and sport occupations were found in the metro areas of Vancouver and Victoria. It is noteworthy that while most employment in occupations unique to primary industry was seen outside metro areas, almost one-third was found within the metro areas.

Earnings are reported by median weekly wage rates (full-time and part-time earnings combined). Median wages in sales and service occupations are only 36 per cent of the median wages in either management or natural and applied sciences occupations.

Employment by selected occupations . . . Figure 2 shows employment characteristics by a further breakdown of sub-categories of occupations within three selected occupational groups. There are considerable differences within some of these broad occupational categories. For instance, within business, finance and administrative occupations, employment in the professional occupations grew considerably over the past ten years (up 46 per cent), while employment declined in the financial, secretarial, and administrative sub-category. Within processing, manufacturing and utilities occupations, all the growth was in the skilled occupations.

Employment in Sales and Service and Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators Occupations . . . Figure 3 shows a breakdown of occupations within the large and diverse sales and service group and the trades, transport and equipment operators group. Within sales and service occupations, employment grew faster than the all-occupations average in all of its occupational sub-groups except childcare and home support workers. Employment growth was similar for both men and women, with the ex-

ception of occupations in protective services where employment for women more than doubled between 1991 and 2001, bringing their share of employment up from 10 per cent to 21 per cent.

In the trades, transport and equipment operators category, employment overall grew only 4 per cent from 1991. Growth in other trades occupations (which includes mechanical and industrial trades) offset decreases in both contractors and supervisors, and trades helpers and labourers.

Earnings by contractors and supervisors in trades were amongst the highest compared to sub-groups in all of the ten broad groups.

Infoline

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/01	% change on one year ago
BC	4,102.8	0.9
Canada	31,156.4	1.0
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2000	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	127,564	5.8
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	124,464	3.9
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	30,664	3.1
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,029	3.1
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Jan	2,672	-11.5
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jan	2,119	-29.6
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jan	3,279	7.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	Feb '02	% change on one year ago
BC	115.9	2.9
Canada	116.9	1.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Feb '02	% change on one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,114	0.6
Employed - BC	1,929	-1.1
Unemployed - BC	185	22.1
		Feb '01
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.8	7.2
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.9	6.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Mar 20/02	Mar 21/01
Prime Business Rate	3.75	6.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.30	6.70
- 5 year	7.30	7.25
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Mar 20/02	Mar 21/01
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.5791	1.5726
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6332	0.6346
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Feb '02	% change on one year ago
BC	656.21	2.0
Canada	645.24	2.8

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2001 Census results

Population and dwelling counts from the 2001 Census were released on March 12th. Data is posted to our site. Follow the link at the centre of our home page.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

Released this week by BC STATS

- Consumer Price Index, February 2002
- Exports, January 2002

Next week

- Business Indicators, March 2002
- Current Statistics, March 2002

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